



AGENDA

GOVERNANCE GROUP
 June 19, 2020 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
 Zoom Meeting ID# 832 9659 4247

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>ACTION, Facilitator</u>
2:00	Welcome	Michael Brown
2:03-2:15	Commemorating and Celebrating Juneteenth	
2:15	Consent Agenda Agenda, Notes from 5/1 Meeting	Michael
2:20 - 2:45	Systems & Policy Change – COVID19 Funding Recommendations	Decision Dionne Foster
2:45 – 3:20	2019 Evaluation Report Summary	Briefing & Discussion Roxana Chen
3:20 – 3:40	Letter from Multicultural Community Coalition	Blishda Lacet, Yordanos Teferi
3:40 – 3:55	Discussion	All
4:00	Adjourn	

Next Meeting: July 17, 2020
***Potential: July Workgroup/Special Session**

Governance Group Members

Lydia Assefa-Dawson
 Michael Brown
 Vazaskia Crockrell
 Deanna Dawson
 Kacey Guin

Ubax Gardheere
 Matelita Jackson
 Paola Maranan
 Jenn Ramirez Robson
 Yordanos Teferi

Marguerite Ro
 Sili Savusa
 Tony To
 AJ McClure



COMMUNITIES OF OPPORTUNITY GOVERNANCE FOUNDING

RESULTS STATEMENT

Create greater health, social, economic and racial equity in King County so that all people thrive and prosper, regardless of race or place.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- Consistently demonstrate the values of equity, respect and partnership.
- Ensure low-income communities and communities of color affected by inequities develop and own the solutions.
- Advocate for and change institutional policies and processes to support equity goals.
- Encourage investments (both funding and in-kind resources) in long-term community capacity building and in systems, policy and practice changes that lead to greater racial and economic equity throughout King County.
- Catalyze alignment of funding streams and partner across issues and sectors to seek preventive strategies that address root causes of today's inequities.
- Be transparent and show how data and community expertise inform initiative strategies.
- Continuously learn, improve and share work publicly.
- Focus on geographic communities with the greatest needs, while simultaneously sharing lessons learned and building relationships across King County – *We are one King County.*

VALUES

We commit to guide Communities of Opportunity using these values:

Equity: work intentionally to eliminate racial, ethnic, socio-economic and geographic disparities in health and well-being

Process Equity: an inclusive, fair and open process

Community Engagement: authentic community engagement that involves listening to and understanding the unique histories of communities

Driven by quantitative and qualitative data: Data will track and report progress, as well as support given for promising and evidence-based practices

Innovation: Recognize that change involves risk and value an adaptive approach that views failure as an important part of the learning process

2 – Communities of Opportunity – Governance Group Special Meeting Notes

Friday, May 1, 2020

10:00 am – 10:30 am

Phone/Video-Conference Call

Members Present: Marty Jackson, Jenn Ramirez Robson, Vazaskia Crockrell, Ubox Gardheere, Marguerite Ro, Michael Brown, AJ McClure, Tony To, Yordanos Teferi, Sili Savusa

Staff: Andréa Akita, Cristina González, Amanda Kay, Whitney Johnson, Blishda Lacet, Kalayaan Domingo, Tom McIntire, Dionne Foster, José Camacho Martinez, Aaron Robertson, Ninona Boujrada

Consent Agenda: Governance Group (GG) approved the consent agenda that included meeting minutes from the special April 17, 2020

Summary:

Communities of Opportunity (COO) Governance Group approved allocation of up to \$2 million for Systems and policy funding in 2020-2021 to create a COO COVID-19 Advocacy & Resiliency fund from the following sources:

King County COO Best Starts for Kids: up to \$1,750,000
Seattle Foundation COO: up to \$ 250,000

The Governance Group authorizes staff to implement funding processes, develop program plans, and negotiate service agreement/contract amendments to make these funds available to eligible organizations.

The motion was made and approved with nine members voted in favor of the funding allocation. The following members recused themselves from the vote: Yordanos Teferi

Background: Program Funding

COO staff prepared [background information](#) that was shared with the King County Council Members' chiefs of staff on April 23rd. The background provided context for COO Systems & Policy Change funding, information that clarified the eligibility for funding process for making funding awards, and systems in place to ensure that public funds are not used for lobbying. A list of the [organizations that would be eligible](#) for funding was also shared with Council staff.

Discussion Notes

First round of funding would be awarded in July. Dionne will return to the Governance Group in June with a docket of applicants for approval and plans for a second round of funding.

3- Staff Report

June 19, 2020 Governance Group Meeting

Systems & Policy Change: COVID 19 Funding Round

Seattle Foundation/COO invited applications from eligible organizations for the COO COVID-19 Advocacy & Resiliency funding approved by the Governance Group last month for a limited number of grants to impact systems and policy change related to health and economic crisis caused by COVID-19. For reference, the funding guide provided to interested applicants can be viewed [here](#). We received 52 applications.

Funding recommendations are included in the packet and will be reviewed at the June meeting. Information is for deliberation purposes and should be considered CONFIDENTIAL.

Evaluation

At our next meeting, we'll also hear from Roxana Chen and Kim Tippens, staff who have been leading our Evaluation efforts. They will provide an update and highlight findings from data they've compiled from partner/grantee reports on 2019 activities.

Roxana and team are currently conducting key informant interviews that will provide additional data to complement the quantitative data in an initial, draft [summary of evaluation data \(revised\)](#).

Commercial Affordability Update

The Commercial Affordability Pilot seeks to identify and develop models, tools, and services that will increase community ownership and equitable development opportunities, supporting business owners who risk being displaced from their neighborhoods within Communities of Opportunity. The intent of the pilot is to support and build on existing projects within the Communities of Opportunity that promote commercial affordability, identify new tools to increase access to capital, and find ways to address other barriers to commercial affordability, such as technical assistance for business operations or capital improvements. Phase 1 consists of planning the pilot and will go through Summer 2020. Phase 2, implementation, will begin in Fall 2020.

The Commercial Affordability consultant team is composed of:

- NDC who will provide real estate financing, technical assistance, and serve as project lead;
- Craft3 who will serve as the small business lender and advisor;
- BDS Planning who will lead our community engagement plan; and
- Moving Beyond who will serve as program evaluators.

The Team will be introduced to Governance Group and provide an update this summer. For more information on each organization, please see the Team Bios [here](#).

Stakeholder Interviews: BDS Planning conducted 24 one-on-one key stakeholder phone interviews with small businesses, property owners, community organizations, and lenders. About 80% of interviews were conducted after the initial Stay Home, Stay Healthy Order was implemented. You can access the full summary [here](#).

A few takeaways include:

- There is a broad level of interest and receptivity to be involved in a pilot, and to try new and innovative approaches to commercial affordability. There is also some apprehension about the role of government, sustainability, and equitable, culturally informed partnership.
- Collaboration and community organizing are already taking place to address displacement and meet

specific needs of marginalized communities, but working solutions should be scaled with institutional backing, including financial institutions. Communities identified their needs, which included lack of capital to establish and maintain commercial ventures within their communities.

- Though ownership of commercial space is often the overarching goal as the best way to build wealth for individual business owners, there is openness to alternative models such as community-owned shared commercial spaces that offer safeguards against displacement and unaffordable rent increases.
- There is fear about the long-term devastating impacts of COVID-19 on small businesses, including loss of revenue and decreased momentum for existing projects aimed to address commercial affordability. However, there is also acknowledgment of potential opportunities for new approaches.

Technical Advisory Group Development: NDC is developing a Technical Advisory Group to work with the consultant team to help develop a process for identifying and selecting sample pilot projects (including developing a selection evaluation scoring criteria), help develop success measures for projects chosen, represent their respective communities, share input and ideas, and share back information to their community on decisions made and actions taken.

Expected Timeline:

- Technical Advisory Group meetings: beginning late June.
- Draft Scope of Work for pilot implementation: August 15.
- Final Pilot Plan: September 15.
- Phase 2 Implementation: beginning September/October 2020.

Next Steps

- The project team is reaching out to potential members of the Technical Advisory Group to invite them to participate.
- Moving Beyond is developing a draft Theory of Change, drawing on their analysis of the community interviews
- NDC and Craft3 are developing the pilot approach, and in the process, reaching out to technical partners active in the commercial affordability space, analyzing past projects, and researching best practices in other communities.

Communities of Opportunity COVID Resilience & Response Funding Recommendations

June 2020

For Deliberation

-Please do not distribute-

Proposed Grantees

Organization	Proposal Overview	Priority Population	Funding Amount
Got Green	To advance Got Green's Emergency Justice platform in response to COVID-19 via education, narrative development, and community action.	Communities of Color	20,000
Statewide Poverty Action Network	To support the creation of and access to direct cash assistance for low-income Washingtonians and Washingtonians of color as they weather the COVID-19 crisis and into the future.	Low Income	57,000
OneAmerica	To support OneAmerica's advocacy efforts to shape a just, community-led recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic.	Refugees and Immigrants	50,000
Yes Foundation	To actively support Pacific Islander youth and their families to engage in the process of raising awareness, identifying solutions and leading change in addressing health disparities highlighted and exacerbated by COVID19.	Asian/Pacific Islander	50,000
Africatown Community Land Trust	To support achieving equity for the Black King County community.	African American	100,000
MCNA - Muslim community & Neighborhood Association	To support City policies in East King County that protect low-income immigrant and refugee renters from eviction during the COVID-19 crisis and its aftermath.	Refugees and Immigrants	42,000
InterIm CDA	To support InterIm CDA advocacy in promoting equitable development and ensure that the Covid-19 crisis is not used to further displace our community.	Refugees and Immigrants; API	30,000
The Maternal Coalition	To support birth rights, birth advocacy, and perinatal mental health advocacy.	Communities of Color	125,000
Northwest Health Law Advocates	To support advocacy to maintain and strengthen immigrant health coverage and access beyond the pandemic emergency period.	Hispanic/Latino; Immigrant	83,000

Proposed Grantees

Organization	Proposal Overview	Priority Population	Funding Amount
CHOOSE 180 & Community Passageways	To support the development of a sustainable advocacy strategy led by those most impacted by mass incarceration, thus ensuring the health and well-being of all incarcerated or court-involved young people in our community by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developing a coalition of organizations led by currently and formerly incarcerated youth and adults that will together build a youth-led advocacy campaign focused on three main goals: free the youth, keep youth free, and keep them safe. - Ensuring that systemic changes made as a result of COVID-19 in the King County Juvenile Legal System--including reducing the number of detained youth and addressing disproportionality in sentencing-- are expanded upon and made permanent. - Advocating for COVID-19 testing to all youth in detention as well as detention staff who oversee their care. - Working with juvenile legal system leaders to inform the development of long-term, equitable systems processes and pandemic policies. 	Formerly Incarcerated/Court-Involved; Black/African American	125,000
UTOPIA (United Territories of Pacific Islanders' Alliance)	To support the leadership of QTPI in King County to win essential safety protections for those whose lives and livelihoods are being severely jeopardized by the COVID-19 crisis, especially those involved in the sex trades.	Asian/Pacific Islander	85,000
Gender Justice League	To support, activate, and advocate for trans and non-binary people who are experiencing significant barriers to safe housing (permanent and non-permanent) due to the intersection of transphobia, misogyny, and the COVID-19 global crisis.	Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender	125,000
Seattle Indian Health Board	To support COVID-related advocacy efforts to ensure adequate funding for the Indian healthcare system, community health centers, and public health in coordination with tribes and tribal organizations.	Native American	50,000
Chief Seattle Club	To support increased advocacy towards equitable responses related to COVID-19 in regard to health, housing, community and economic protections; including indigenous-designed contact tracing for more accurate data collection.	Native American	50,000
Puget Sound Sage	To support organizing with BIPOC communities in Seattle and King County to put in place the tools we need stabilize our communities through a just COVID-19 recovery framework that centers policies that prevent "disaster gentrification" and promote resiliency through community stewardship of land.	Communities of Color	125,000
Community Health Board Coalition CHBC	To support system and policy work that will address the disparate impact of COVID-19 among BIPOC communities by focusing on addressing causes of mental health issues that are rooted in structural racism and are manifesting more vividly because of the pandemic.	Communities of Color	133,000

Declined Proposals

• Tenants Union of WA	• Not This Time
• Front and Centered	• South King County Discipline Coalition
• Open Doors for Multicultural Families	• Wa Na Wari
• Casa Latina	• Crescent Collaborative
• Equity in Education Coalition	• All in for Washington
• Na'ah Illahee Fund	• The Washington Bus Education Fund
• Alphabet Alliance of Color (AAoC)	• Community Cafe Collaborative
• Friends of Little Saigon	• Youth Development Executives of King County (YDEKC)
• Ingersoll Gender Center	• Orquesta Northwest
• Para Los Niños	• King County Play Equity Coalition
• LGBTQ Allyship	• CHOOSE 180 (solo application)
• Communities in Action	• FEEST (Food Empowerment Education & Sustainability Team)
• Central Area Collaborative	
• Collective Justice	
• FREEDOM PROJECT	
• Building Changes	
• Glover Empower Mentoring	
• Asian Counseling and Referral Service	
• Church Council of Greater Seattle	
• Byrd Barr Place	



"Like all coalitions attempting to defy the odds and build power and economic stability in working-class communities of color, Rainier Valley Communities of Opportunity partners have run into disagreements that are a microcosm of the societal problems we are working to change, and we are not alone in experiencing this.

We recognize that conflict is a natural and expected element of any coalition, and confronting conflict rather than avoiding it is the way we will grow our relationships and our capacity to do this work, and how we will proceed.

We are committed to each member's success and believe in each other as skilled leaders in community development. As such, we are in the process of working out the details of how we will encourage, support and engage in conflict resolution processes, and how we will adjust to meet the demands of our individual missions and shared goals in light of our current challenges."

~Rainier Valley Communities of Opportunity Site (2020)

Dear Governance Members,

We write this to focus on the question: "Why are we doing this work?"

We write this to focus on Community Harm that results from Power Imbalance.

We write this to focus on Collective Accountability.

In order to get back to our "Why?", we need to focus on how we assist or what mechanisms we put in place when COO partners engaging in deep partnerships find themselves experiencing conflict in the course of their complex change work.

Presently, conflict has ensued between MCC and HomeSight resulting from HomeSight's decision to remove MCC from the Othello Square project without notice and cause despite having an MOU in place since 2017. This action took place on March 16, 2020.

MCC has made attempts to have HomeSight engage in a conflict resolution process since April but to no avail. Such steps have been attempted through the following engagements: RV COO; COO staff; Race, Social Equity Taskforce (RSET); Office of Planning and Community Development staff; On Board Othello and Senator Rebecca Saldaña. Specifically, HomeSight and MCC agreed to engage in mediation at RSET in April, as two demonstration projects of the Equitable Development Initiative, and had received commitment from funders and elected representatives who have expressed willingness to join the mediation table. Subsequently, COO staff agreed to

provide the resources needed for mediation services, but as of May 26th,, HomeSight has indicated that it is unwilling to engage in any conflict resolution processes.

We have been very clear and have publicly indicated that we do see a path forward through mediation with HomeSight. We consider our Win/Win scenario to include one of the following:

- Scenario 1: MCC would continue to partner with HomeSight as the community developer of the project. MCC would hire a reputable development consultant to work with HomeSight to represent and ensure that MCC's values and project outcomes are incorporated into the project and programming. HomeSight would execute a partnership agreement with MCC in this scenario.
- Scenario 2: MCC would receive and pay for its share of the Othello Square land parcel for which it will identify an alternate reputable developer to develop the project with MCC.

We bring this issue to your attention having exhausted all avenues. There is collective accountability here as MCC and HomeSight are RV COO co-designing partners and are Othello Square originating partners having worked for over a decade on projects that are part of the City's Equitable Development Implementation Plan. Moreover, both organizations have leaders who are COO Governance members, so this is ripe for discussion here.

While MCC is experiencing such challenges with HomeSight, we are not alone in encountering this. As has been presented by COO staff, several COO partners have/are experiencing these challenges. MCC has openly advocated at a grantee gathering and at Governance meetings that conflict resolution processes need to be incorporated as a COO mechanism and resources to be dedicated to such. We've recently seen great strides toward that end with the navigating conflicts in partnership training that was held and with COO dedicating resources toward conflict resolution when the need has arisen.

MCC attended and benefitted from that training held on February 6th, and it is with knowledge gained from that session that MCC emphatically takes the position that the healthiest path forward is for it and HomeSight to engage in a conflict resolution process. With this realization, we not only advocate for ourselves but also for the institution of solid mechanisms by which partners are able to take advantage of conflict resolution processes immediately after conflict ensues.

Engaging in conflict resolution should not be something that one partner has to seek a long-time partner to engage in over the course of months. The fact that this has been our experience speaks to the advantage that more powerful COO partners are wielding at the expense of less powerful communities. Conflict resolution ought to

be an outright requirement, for when conflict is allowed to fester and grow, it not only impacts the parties to such conflicts but also all those around them. Notably, conflict also stands to impact funder relationships and can negatively impact the larger body of work in which we are all engaged. While conflict is natural and may even be a great learning and growing opportunity if parties are able to meaningfully resolve their issues, it is often seen by many as the reason that communities of color cannot be trusted with access to resources, both large and small.

It goes without saying that Governance has not taken steps to establish a culture of proactive conflict management. This points to the reason that MCC is having to raise the issue here. When a COO partner with greater resources and in a better position of power can make a unilateral decision that significantly harms another COO partner, without any community input, on a community development project that is being built on public land and largely with public dollars, and yet also sees itself as being immune from any accountability as evidenced by its resistance to conflict resolution, we have a grave problem.

This resistance, and any endorsement thereof, is not our way forward. This is not the path in which we center community and engage in meaningful equity work toward systemic change. Instead, it is a means for causing communities into traps of harm that continue to plague, disenfranchise and maintain disempowerment of our most vulnerable communities. Just as COO stands for giving communities voice and power in the decisions that impact us, it also needs to give equal voice and power to those very same communities who stand powerless when conflict ensues and when needing to confront conflict.

In short, MCC requests the following of Governance:

- Strongly encourage both HomeSight and MCC to undergo mediation, by a certified mediator, in acknowledging that this needs to be the COO way in its support of conflict resolution and in acknowledging that COO stands to empower the less powerful among us.
 - Governance can and should be the body that maintains its neutrality while also being part of the brainstorming process towards the contribution of viable solutions.
- If Governance is not ready or willing to take such a step, allow the RV COO partners to provide a recommendation that further details our commitments to effectively resolve all conflicts and what is best suited in this situation.

As a Governance member, I implore us to also consider the following:

- A mechanism by which all COO contracts will include a conflict resolution provision that encourages partners to undergo conflict resolution processes.
 - Resources should be specifically set aside for conflict resolution opportunities.
- Acknowledge that it may take collective power to influence the more powerful COO partners among us when they need to be held accountable.

- Explore further avenues for giving adequate voice and for empowering the less powerful in a meaningful way.
- The development of conflict management curriculum that would be rolled out to all partners as mandatory training.
 - Perhaps retaining a conflict resolution organization that continually and actively engages and follows up with partners that identify having conflict and power imbalance challenges.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting. It is my hope that we can have a fruitful discussion that not only touches on addressing MCC's requests but also more broadly uses this situation as a learning opportunity for Governance to take some action that will support and empower partners that will inevitably have conflict ensue.

Best,
Yordanos